

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (“VC”)

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<p>Is there a refugee protection program?</p>	<p>No. The law does not provide for the granting of asylum or refugee status, and the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has not established a system for providing protection to refugees. The government addresses each case individually. Information on the government’s cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (“UNHCR”) is unavailable.¹</p>
<p>Who runs any available refugee protection program? Who determines which applicants qualify for refugee protection?</p>	<p>In countries without national systems to carry out refugee status determination, UNHCR may assist to assess claims for refugee status.² UNHCR’s Regional Office in Washington covers Caribbean states including Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.³</p> <p>The government will decide each case individually. According to UNHCR statistics, however, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has not hosted refugees in the last ten years.⁴ The government established an ad hoc Eligibility Committee for refugee status determination in the past and adjudicated three asylum claims in 2004.⁵</p>
<p>Is the refugee protection program functional? For example, how long does it take for decisions to be</p>	<p>N/A</p>

¹ Section 2(F), 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, U.S. Department of State, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/saint-vincent-and-the-grenadines/>

² UNHCR, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/saint-vincent-and-the-grenadines.html>

³ UNHCR in the United States and the Caribbean, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/unhcr-in-the-united-states-and-the-caribbean.html>

⁴ UNHCR, Refugee Data Finder, <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download?url=ZQ8XxG>

⁵ UNHCR Submission on Saint Vincent and the Grenadines : UPR 25th Session, Sept. 25, 2015, <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5774f2c84.pdf>

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<p>issued? What percentage of applications are granted?</p>	
<p>Do refugees have a right to work? A right to education? A right to medical care?</p>	<p>Unknown.</p>
<p>Are those seeking refugee protection free to live freely or forced to reside in camps?</p>	<p>Unknown. It is unclear the extent to which detention facilities are used in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as part of immigration enforcement procedures.⁶</p>
<p>Does a grant of refugee protection result in a pathway to permanent status? In other words, can a refugee eventually become a citizen? Is there another form of legal permanent status available for people with refugee status?</p>	<p>Unknown.</p>
<p>Does the country offer temporary protections available other than</p>	<p>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not offer other temporary protections.</p>

⁶ Global Detention Project, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, <https://www.globaldetentionproject.org/countries/americas/saint-vincent-and-the-grenadines>

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<p>refugee status? If so, what are they?</p>	<p>Although Afghan citizens do not need a visa to go to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, they are limited to a one month stay.⁷ Travelers that wish to stay longer than one month can apply for an extension at the Immigration Head Office in Kingstown, or at any of the following Ports: Bequia, Mustique, Canouan and Union Island.⁸ There is a cost of EC \$25. Additionally, travelers who do not hold round-trip tickets may be denied entry.</p> <p>COVID as of August 10, 2021: Unvaccinated travelers from Afghanistan must arrive with a negative result of a COVID-19 (RT-PCR) test done no more than seventy-two (72) hours or three (3) days before arrival. There is also a mandatory quarantine for fourteen (14) days in a Tourism Authority/MOHWE approved Transition/Quarantine Hotel at the traveler’s cost.⁹</p>
<p>What, if any, penalties are there for people without status or people who are denied refugee protection?</p>	<p>It is against the law to overstay the entry period or to work without a work permit. Deportation may occur if a traveler breaches the immigration laws.¹⁰</p>
<p>What organizations exist in-country that can help displaced people seek available protections? What other organizations in the country may be able to help displaced people access services and rights, even if their mission is not</p>	<p>The UNHCR Regional Office, based in Washington, DC, has coverage for the country.</p> <p>No such organizations have been identified: https://www.refugeelaidinformation.org/-vincent-and-saintgrenadines-pro-bono-directory</p>

⁷ Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, <https://www.gov.vc/index.php/visitors/visa>; see also Visitors' Permits, Ministry of National Security, Air and Sea Port Development, http://security.gov.vc/security/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=56&Itemid=112

⁸ Visitors' Permits, Ministry of National Security, Air and Sea Port Development, http://security.gov.vc/security/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=56&Itemid=112

⁹ Protocol for The Entry Of Unvaccinated Travellers To St. Vincent And The Grenadines – revised 10/08/2021, http://health.gov.vc/health/images/PDF/stories/SVG_Health_Services_Subcommittee_Protocol_for_Travelers_to_SVG_10082021_edited.pdf

¹⁰ http://www.foreign.gov.vc/foreign/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=298&Itemid=307

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to specifically work with refugees and displaced people?	
Is there other information that might be valuable for displaced people arriving in that country to know?	VC received zero asylum applications in the last five years according to UNHCR, ¹¹ and thus the process for such applications is unclear. Separately, some 15,000 people in St. Vincent and the Grenadines were displaced from a volcano that erupted in April 2021. ¹²

¹¹ Refugee Data Finder, <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/download/?url=0QY4qV>

¹² St. Vincent PM recovering after head injury at protest, <https://in.news.yahoo.com/st-vincent-pm-injured-protest-004721641.html>